



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney

Northern Division
6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2692

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4836
FAX 410-962-0693

Southern Division
400 United States Courthouse
6500 Cherrywood Lane
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1249

301-344-4433
301-344-4422
FAX 301-344-4516

*Please respond to:
Northern Division*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

**ANNAPOLIS BUSINESSMAN INDICTED
FOR SELLING DESIGNER "KNOCK-OFFS"**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Joel Metang Djomou, age 27, owner of *Ladies Heaven* on Main Street, Annapolis, has been arrested and indicted for trafficking in counterfeit goods.

The arrest was the result of a criminal investigation which began after Djomou, a native of Cameroon, opened his *Ladies Heaven* store in the fall of 2002. During the investigation, agents made a series of undercover purchases of goods from the store, culminating in the issuance of a search warrant of both the store and Djomou's apartment on June 12, 2003. The search resulted in the seizure of over 1,000 counterfeit purses, scarves and other items falsely marked as merchandise manufactured by designers such as Prada, Louis Vuitton, Burberry and Kate Spade.

The case is the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Secret Service and the Annapolis City Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Donna C. Sanger.